



Discovery of condensed milk in January 31, 1851

Brindha V

*Correspondence to: E-mail: brindbiotech@gmail.com

Publication History

Received: 06 November 2013

Accepted: 14 December 2013

Published: 1 January 2014

Citation

Brindha V. Discovery of condensed milk in January 31, 1851. *Discovery*, 2014, 9(20), 7

Publication License



© The Author(s) 2014. Open Access. This article is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 \(CC BY 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

General Note

Article is recommended to print as color digital version in recycled paper.

In 1851 Gail Borden announced his invention of condensed milk. He was a 19th-century U.S. inventor, surveyor, and publisher. He was born in Norwich, New York on 9 November 1801. He received the patent for his process of condensing milk by vacuum. Condensed milk is used in numerous dessert dishes in many countries. Gail Borden, process for condensing milk offered the first way to preserve milk without refrigeration, and improved the diet of nineteenth century Americans. Condensed milk helped to change the dairy business from a local farmer-to-consumer business into a major industry. Anticipating the work of Louis Pasteur, Borden believed that protecting milk from airborne impurities would keep it from spoiling. He used a vacuum pan with a heating coil to vaporize the water from the milk without burning or souring it. Unequaled in purity at the time, the resulting condensed milk could be stored and shipped over long distances.

In 1864, Gail Borden's New York Condensed Milk Company constructed the New York Milk Condensery in Brewster, New York. This condensery was the largest and most advanced milk factory and was Borden's first commercially successful plant. Over 200 dairy farmers supplied 20,000 gallons (76,000 litres) of milk daily to the Brewster plant as demand was driven by the Civil War. Many new factories were built and licenses were granted to individuals to begin producing condensed milk in their own factories using Borden's Patent. Borden continued to experiment with the condensing of meat, tea, coffee, and cocoa, and in 1862, he patented the condensing of juice from fruits like apples and grapes. He opened a meat-packing plant in the town of Borden, which he founded in Colorado County. He also established a saw mill and copperware factory. His Borden Milk Company would eventually become the Borden Family of Companies, including Borden Foods Corp. and Borden Chemicals Inc., and the Borden Condensed Milk logo, Elsie the cow, is known around the world.

He died in Borden, Colorado County, Texas, on January 11, 1874. Borden County was formed and named in his honor. Even after Borden's death, the Borden Company remained a strong corporation. By the 1940s, the Borden Company employed 28,000 people and had a stock holding partnership of 50,000. It dealt with more varied products ranging from fresh and condensed milk, casein, animal feeds, pharmaceuticals, vitamins, to soy bean creations. The company faced financial difficulties during the 1990s. It began to sell off its subsidiaries. Borden Inc. sold its dairy subsidiary in Sept. 1997 and in 2001 sold the last of its food lines. A version of the company continues even today.